



VIA ECFS

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest -- Rate-of-Return Areas
North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (NCTC) hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.¹ NCTC is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier providing broadband and voice services in rural areas of Kentucky and Tennessee. These additional funds are needed to meet customer demands for high-speed broadband, provide these customers access to their community anchor institutions, and transition to an all-IP network. The details of the proposed deployment are as follows.

Proposed Service Area

NCTC proposes to upgrade facilities and to provide broadband to 1,523 unserved premises within the regulated rate-of-return service territory in Allen County, Kentucky as well as Macon and Trousdale Counties in Tennessee.

Proposed Broadband Service

Voice and broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of up to 1Gbps downstream and 1 Gbps downstream based on our active Ethernet architecture provided over a largely fiber-to-the-home network funded by this request.

Funding

NCTC requests \$11M in funding from Connect America Funds in a one-time funding. NCTC expects service to be offered to all unserved customers within one year after construction starts.

¹ See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

NCTC appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy J. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "White" clearly distinguishable.

Nancy J. White
President and CEO